

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Francis Hsieh et al.

Title: ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DISTRIBUTED NETWORK AND  
METHOD

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to the initial review of this non-provisional utility divisional patent application entitled "ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DISTRIBUTED NETWORK AND METHOD" by Francis Hsieh and Brad Manning, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the Cross Reference to Related Applications with the following:

This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/884,882 filed June 30, 1997 entitled "Electronic Commerce Distributed Network and Method", now U.S. Patent No. 6,259,700 issued July 10, 2001.

This application is related to U.S. Application Serial No. 08/885,395, filed June 30, 1997, and entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT, now U.S. Patent No. 6,192,034 issued February 20, 2001.

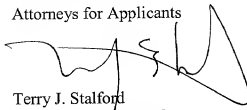
IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel without prejudice Claims 1-8 and 15-20 and maintain Claims 9-14 in the instant application.

REMARKS

Early and favorable acceptance of this divisional application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
BAKER BOTTS L.L.P.  
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**MARKED UP VERSION OF CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS**

**This application is a divisional of U.S. Application Serial No. 08/884,882 filed June 30, 1997 entitled ELECTRONIC COMMERCE DISTRIBUTED NETWORK AND METHOD, now U.S. Patent No. 6,259,700 issued July 10, 2001.**

This application is related to **(the following application which is incorporated herein by reference:)** U.S. Application Serial No. 08/885,395, filed June 30, 1997, and entitled SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR NETWORK INTEGRITY MANAGEMENT, (Attorney Docket No. 021768.0141) **now U.S. Patent No. 6,192,034 issued February 20, 2001.**

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